



**Mayor's Night Out
Eastside Responses
April 26, 2006
Community Settlement Association**

When will the Teen Youth Center be built in the Eastside?

An improvement plan for the Eastside Youth Opportunity at Bobby Bonds Park has been approved for the layout of the center in the former NAACP Child Care Center building next to the gym. Access to the building will be provided from the recently finished parking lot on Kansas Ave. The center will provide educational/vocational training rooms, private spaces for counseling, a lounge area, and space for games. Construction documents for the tenant improvements are currently underway with an expectation that the project will be advertised for bid prior to the end of this calendar year. Tenant improvement construction would follow, perhaps before the end of this year, and certainly during the first part of 2007. As a first step in the construction process, a new roof is scheduled to be provided over the entire building within the next six months.

Resident #2

Can the Eastside Community Centers get more funding for youth programs and job help for teens?

Over the past year the City Council has approved more than \$250,000 in additional funding for the Eastside Neighborhood. The funding allocated is currently being used to fund staff, supplies and program costs at Lincoln and Patterson Parks. During the past year the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD) has opened Lincoln and Patterson Parks for daily recreation operations/programs. During FY 06-07 the PRCSD will offer job training opportunities for young adults by partnering with Project BRIDGE and the Riverside County Office of Education. In addition, the PRCSD will provide free meals during the summer at Bordwell, Bobby Bonds, Lincoln and Patterson Parks. The PRCSD staff is also planning to implement a youth sports and activity component at Lincoln and Patterson Parks. Staff is planning various special events for 2006/2007 (16 de Septiembre, Christmas, Easter, etc.).

Resident #3

What is the City doing to deal with the overcrowded halfway houses and the resident's guests that frequent the halfway house?

Code Enforcement has a Transitional Housing Task Force team whose officer's work together with the Riverside Police Department Parolee and Corrections Team to

investigate and take necessary enforcement actions on "halfway" houses that are reported to the Code Enforcement Division. The combined task force has successfully closed or brought into compliance over twenty-four of these houses.

Resident #4

Can the City stop code enforcement violators from moving blight from one place to another?

Code enforcement violations are addressed wherever they occur. If we discover that one location has the intent to move "blight" (for example, inoperative vehicles, junk, etc...), then we will advise the party that we will address and fine the responsible party for the relocation of those items.

Resident #5

Can something be done about the car parked at the stop sign at the corner of Kansas and 9th St.?

Code Enforcement has inspected this corner and we have not yet seen a vehicle parked at this location. We will continue to monitor this location for possible future action.

Resident #6

Are goats permitted on residential property within City limits?

Goats are allowed in certain rural residential zones. The area surrounding the address in question is zoned single family and goats are not allowed. Code Enforcement has not been able to locate the address where the goat lives and welcomes any further information that can narrow our search. Contact Senior Officer Jacki Floyd at (951) 826-5924.

Resident #7

Can weed abatement be enforced and what actions/procedures does the City take when it comes to abandoned vehicles?

The Code Enforcement Division has a formal semi-annual weed abatement program that addresses weeds and tumbleweeds. A survey of the City is made and notices are sent to properties with weeds, giving a deadline for those weeds to be removed. If the property owner does not remove the weeds, then a contractor will be dispatched by Code Enforcement to abate the weeds and the property owner will be invoice accordingly for the abatement and administrative fees.

When abandoned/inoperable/dismantled vehicles are identified to Code Enforcement personnel, the Officer will notify the property owner as well as the owner of the vehicle, in writing, to restore the vehicle to operable condition, move the vehicle into a completely enclosed structure, or remove the vehicle from the property. If the vehicle is not corrected by one of those actions, then the vehicle is towed by the City and destroyed after final and legal notification has been submitted to all interested parties responsible for the vehicle.

Resident #8

Can something be done about the loud trucks that make noise at 3 am on 11th Street?

Code Enforcement has an open case at this location. The use of truck parking has "grandfathered" and therefore has City approval for this use. However, Code Enforcement has communicated with the company and found that they are in the process of relocating the early morning portion of their operation to a new location outside City's limits and the noise nuisance should be gone when the new property purchase is completed.

Resident #9

Will there be an increase in low-income housing in the Eastside?

There are both low income and moderate income projects planned for the Eastside. Currently under construction on 11th Street is a 75 unit senior apartment complex for low- and very low-income seniors. Additionally, staff is working with infill developers to locate and acquire parcels to construct low and moderate income single family homes.

Resident #10

What is the City doing to alleviate the issue of homelessness in the Eastside?

- In June of 2003, the City of Riverside adopted the "Riverside Community Broad-Based Homeless Action Plan. Since its adoption, the City has aggressively pursued implementation of 30 action-based strategies within the plan including hiring a full-time Homeless Services Coordinator. Over the last year, the following has been accomplished:
- Worked in partnership with a local non-profit agency (Path of Life Ministries) to invest over \$1 million dollars in the acquisition and rehab of a new Year-round, 64-bed emergency shelter facility. Since opening in November of 2005 (through March of 2006):

- 102 homeless men, women and children who entered the shelter program have been assisted with securing alternative housing opportunities including: independent rental housing, transitional housing for families, supportive housing for people with mental illness and family reunification; 87 homeless individuals who entered the shelter program have secured full-time, part-time, or temporary employment.
- Worked in partnership with the County of Riverside to invest over \$900,000 in the acquisition of a new facility that will serve as a 24-hour Safe Haven Mental Health Service Center that will include 25 permanent housing beds for chronically homeless individuals with severe mental illness.
- Allocated over \$500,000 to public and private service agencies that provide assistance to homeless individuals and families including emergency shelter, family transitional shelter, transitional housing, residential mental health and substance abuse treatment services, domestic violence assistance, and general emergency assistance and referral services.
- Allocated \$400,000 to fund a new program providing Tenant-based Rental Assistance to homeless individuals and families and those at-risk of becoming homeless through one-time help with security deposits, first-month's rents, eviction prevention assistance, or utility payment assistance.
- Secured a federal grant to help fund a \$900,000 three-year Homeless Street Outreach Team project specifically targeting services to the chronically homeless in the City of Riverside. The Street Outreach Team project will be based on an Assertive Community Treatment model of high-impact, multi-disciplinary street-engagement in partnership with local service professionals and law enforcement focused on helping people get off the streets and into housing.
- In the process of acquiring a new facility to house a One-Stop Multi-Service Access Center to provide a wide-range of social services, including employment, mental health, substance abuse, health care, benefits assistance, housing placement, etc., to homeless individuals and families and those at-risk of becoming homeless all under one-roof. We are hoping to apply the "PATH Mall" concept successfully employed by People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) in Los Angeles.
- Organized a "Homeless Care Network" made up of over two dozen local public and private services providers, including the faith-based community, to more effectively coordinate and collaborate on the provision of services to the homeless through the city's continuum of care.

- Submitted two proposals, totaling over \$1.6 million in requested funding, to the County of Riverside for inclusion in the Consolidated Application for 2006 HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Grant funding. Each proposal is for acquisition and supportive services for permanent supportive housing units with one project specifically targeting the chronically homeless and the other targeting homeless persons (and their families) with disabling conditions.
- Working with faith-community leaders to more actively engage faith-based organizations, in partnership with community service providers, in the effort to create and support permanent housing opportunities for homeless families with children and chronically homeless individuals. The City will be sponsoring a Faith-based / Community Organization Summit on Homelessness in September of 2006 at California Baptist University.

Resident #11

Can speed humps be put in on Howard Street? What is the process?

A petition for speed humps needs to be submitted to the Traffic Division of Public Works. Once the petition has been received, the City will evaluate the criteria for speed humps. If the area meets the criteria it will be referred to the Parking Traffic and Streets Commission for approval. If approved, the residents will submit their share of the cost and the request will be submitted to the City Council for final approval. Once approved by the City Council, the humps will be scheduled for installation. If you have further questions, you may call Steve Libring, Traffic Engineer at 826-5368.

Resident #12

How is the City dealing with people caught doing graffiti?

Generally, RPD submits a police report to the DA's Office, which calls for the perpetrator to be prosecuted for 594 PC.

If the person caught is a minor, the law allows the City to sue the parents of the minor to recover the costs to abate the graffiti and the costs of the police in investigating the crime, in addition to recovery of attorney's fees and costs.

If the person caught is an adult, it depends upon the perpetrator's criminal history. If he/she has an extensive record of vandalism/graffiti/tagging with Riverside, then we are more likely to file a lawsuit for recovery of our abatement costs. If this appears to be an isolated event, or other mitigating circumstance, then our office may request that Finance simply bill the perpetrator for the City's costs of abatement.

To date, we've filed approximately 6 lawsuits against minors and their parents and have recovered approximately \$4,400. Not a lot, but we hope we're sending a message. Taggers who have been sued in this fashion have not had a repeat offense. If you have additional questions you may call Dan Batson at 351-6129.

Resident #13

Why are there so many stop signs on Victoria between 14th St. and Central Ave.?

These stop signs were placed for a variety of reasons, including volume, delay, sight distance, limitations, and geometry. Any additional questions, please contact Steve Libring, City Traffic Engineer at 825-5358.

Resident #14

Can handicap access be added to the Victoria St. Bridge?

The east side of Victoria Bridge and Victoria Avenue will be accessible in the very near future when a curb ramp is constructed at Woodbine. Although the bridge has a sidewalk on the west side, there are no plans to construct a sidewalk on the Westside of Victoria south of the bridge. Pedestrians on the west side on Victoria should cross to the east side at Woodbine. If you have further questions, you may call Tom Boyd at 826-5575.

Resident #15

When are streets in the Eastside going to have sidewalks? Such as Douglass St. for example.

Sidewalk requests are evaluated based on several factors such as the number of pedestrian trips, close proximity of the sidewalk to schools, public transportation, etc., whether the sidewalk is on a minor or arterial street, and the sidewalk construction cost. The location is ranked based on a formula combining the factors listed above and then placed on a sidewalk priority list. Currently, the list has 240 locations. The City normally constructs approximately 10 new sidewalks per year based on available funding. If you have further questions you have further questions you may call Philip Hannawi at 826-5706.

Resident #16

What is the procedure/process for getting speed humps installed on my street?

A petition for speed humps needs to be submitted to the Traffic Division of Public Works. Once the petition has been received, the City will evaluate the criteria for speed humps. If the area meets the criteria it will be referred to the Parking Traffic and Streets Commission for approval. If approved, the residents will submit their share of the cost and the request will be submitted to the City Council for final approval. Once approved by the City Council, the humps will be scheduled for installation. If you have further questions, you may call Steve Libring, Traffic Engineer at 826-5368.

Resident #17

Can a stop sign or traffic light be put in at Bermuda and 14th street to slow traffic?

Fourteenth Street would not meet the criteria for a stop sign. To be eligible for a signal, the intersection will be added to the current list of unsignalized locations and evaluated annually for funding allocated by the City Council. In the interim, we suggest exiting or crossing via the signal at Sedgewick; one block to the east. If you have any question, please call Steve Libring, city Traffic Engineer at 826-5368.

Resident #18

Can the streets along 12th Street and MLK Blvd. between Kansas St. and Chicago Avenue be cleaned?

This area was swept on Thursday (5/4) as scheduled; however, we continue to encounter several vehicles parked on the street and not abiding by the Thursday parking restriction/posting (No Parking - 9am to 2:00pm Thursdays). If you have further questions, you may call Dan Batson at 351-6129.

Resident #19

Can something be done about the traffic that blocks the school bus drop off locations?

The Police Department's Traffic Division has been informed regarding this issue and a traffic patrol officer is now assigned to patrol this area. Strict enforcement is now in play and any vehicle in blocking the school bus drop off will be cited.

Resident #20

Why is the officer who was involved in the shooting on University Ave. back on duty in the Eastside?

This officer is not assigned to the Eastside neighborhood. This officer has been reassigned to another location in Riverside.

Resident #21

Can more police patrols be put on 12th street to stop speeders?

Police Department's Traffic Division has been notified regarding the speeding issue and will assign additional officers to patrol this area at peak travel times.

Resident #22

Can Police help decrease the number of teens that are doing/selling drugs at the Community Settlement playground?

A School Resource Officer has been assigned to visit and patrol the Community Settlement. With school officially out for the summer, the assigned SRO will allocate more time to patrolling this area.

Resident #23

Can something be done to curb the amount of traffic and illegal activity coming and going from the Welcome Inn?

The Police Department has initiated a number of both covert and overt operations to this immediate area with our narcotics and gang unit. Police has also initiated the abatement program. Police will continue these efforts in a more aggressive manner over this summer.

Resident #24

Can police respond to the after school fights that happen in the Eastside?

School Resource Officers in the Eastside have been briefed on the increase in after school fighting and have extended their patrol times during the after school hours.